

INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department



Police make changes to combat violent crime

Chief Darryl Forté has moved more than 40 people from units across the department into the Violent Crimes Division to reduce violent crime and hold accountable those who perpetrate it.

It started with the formation of a Violent Crimes Enforcement Unit on Jan. 19 and concluded with a Violent Crimes Intelligence Squad launching April 6. Major Ronald Fletcher was assigned to the Violent Crimes Division to implement these changes.

The Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA), which also recently moved under the Violent Crimes Division, is now working with patrol officers and detectives from throughout the department to ramp up its efforts to identify criminals and the groups or gangs with which they associate.

Major Fletcher said it was crucial to involve patrol officers because they know who is doing what on the streets.

"The men and women with boots on the ground are a resource that has gone untapped for way too long," Fletcher said.

Quarterly, NoVA calls in members of these groups and notifies them that if a violent act takes place among their associates, the full force of law enforcement will be on the members of their group. At their last quarterly meeting, police identified several hundred people involved in violent criminal activity in more than 35 groups.

NoVA leader, Captain Joe McHale, said drawing the connections among groups and predicting who will commit crimes is ground-breaking in law enforcement.

"No one else in the United States is doing this," he said.

Chief Forté has assigned 28 uniformed personnel to the Violent Crime Enforcement Unit (formerly known as the Area Command Unit), another new part of the Violent Crimes Division. This is the first time in memory such a large contingent of uniformed personnel has been moved to combat violent crime in an investigative element, Fletcher said. This unit serves as the Violent Crime Division's enforcement arm. Should an act



Among the changes to the Violent Crimes Division is the creation of a squad that will gather intelligence on gangs and groups.

of violence take place involving one of the identified groups, Violent Crime Enforcement Unit officers will enhance their enforcement activities against that group's members with everything from minor ordinance violations to federal cases.

This already took place in the first quarter of 2014 when a homicide occurred within one of the identified criminal groups. Violent Crime Enforcement Unit officers, along with the Narcotics and Vice Division and their federal partners, effectively dismantled the group by arresting its members on multiple federal firearms and narcotics trafficking charges.

The Fugitive Apprehension and Arraignment Unit also moved under the Violent Crimes Enforcement

Unit so all elements tracking down violent criminals will be in the same chain of command.

A new Violent Crime Administrative Squad within the Enforcement Unit will handle the majority of federal cases regarding felons in possession of firearms and other weapons violations. The Robbery Unit previously handled those cases. This will lighten the Robbery Unit's caseload, allowing for detectives to respond to more scenes and to conduct more thorough robbery investigations.

On the advice of experts in academia and law enforcement, Chief Forté and Violent Crimes Division Major Ronald Fletcher also have created a Violent Crimes Intelligence Squad. Incorporating experienced gang, homicide and narcotics detectives, this group will work openly (not under-cover) to gather information from the community and patrol officers about gang/group feuds, retaliations and trends.

With the help of the Law Enforcement Resource Center, this information will be analyzed and distributed department-wide from homicide detectives to street-level officers. The goal is to prevent violent crimes among gangs and groups before it takes place.

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HQ Artwork

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Sneak peek at new East Patrol/Crime Lab



The architects designing the new East Patrol Division and Crime Lab Campus have released updated renderings of what the project now under construction at 27th and Prospect will look like. Helix Architecture + Design in association with Wellner Architects, along with Police and City staff, have begun presenting the drawings to community groups and at public meetings. The campus is expected to be completed and open in 2015.

Clockwise, from top left: The campus, with the Crime Lab on the left and East Patrol on the right; East Patrol Division; and Crime Lab.



New artwork featured on renovated floors at HQ

You may notice custom artwork appearing on newly renovated floors at Headquarters. Recent University of Kansas graduate Paige Crosswhite, a full-time freelance artist, is the proud creator of these handmade canvases depicting KCPD badges throughout history.

City Architect Eric Bosch discovered Crosswhite when he noticed her working on some sketches at the Classic Cup on the Country Club Plaza last year. She ended up making a custom piece of the Liberty Memorial for his office. Knowing the police department needed feature pieces for the entryways of the newly renovated floors, Mr. Bosch got her in touch with Major Sharon Laningham of the Capital Improvement Unit. The art was part of the project budget.

After discussing several different ideas with the Construction Division, Crosswhite came up with the idea of doing different badges through KCPD's history thanks to her dad, who loves old Westerns.

"We thought it would be a fresh twist to a historical badge," Major Laningham said.

Crosswhite started this project in November 2013. She has built the frames and stretched the 48-inch-by-80-inch canvases with the help of



Left: Paige Crosswhite displays her painting of the current KCPD detective badge; Right: Her painting of the police badge during the Home Rule Era of 1932-1937.



her father, Kent Crosswhite. It has taken her roughly a month to finish each painting.

"Badges are meaningful as beautiful objects and interesting in the symbolic sense," she said. "... They are prized possessions that carry loaded meaning and responsibility for the wearer.

Each painting will have a different background. The detective badge canvas has Kansas City's snow plow map behind it. She plans to use an old 1910 map of Kansas City for her third project.

Crosswhite said this has been her first big project but she has done some work for the Topeka Zoo and the Port Authority.

As renovations continue, you will see her artwork added to the entryways on floors two, three, five, six and seven. She also plans

to make a smaller canvas of the Chief's badge that will stay with the Executive Floor.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be making such meaningful artwork," Crosswhite said.

Find more about Crosswhite's art business, Paige After Paige LLC, at paigecrosswhite.com.

Bike program rolls for PAL



P.O. Marta Hayes and Epic Bike and Sports owner Scott Schleisman composed and submitted a grant request resulting in a \$7,500 matching-funds grant for mountain bikes for the Police Athletic League. Schleisman then allowed the kids to get hands-on experience assembling the eight bikes purchased with the grant. The Brain Injury Association of Kansas City also donated bike helmets. March 20 marked the inaugural ride for the newly formed Trail Blazers group with mountain bike racing pro Garet Steinmetz and Epic Bikes lead mechanic Mark Devine participating. The event was so popular with the youth, they were willing to wait up to 45 minutes for their turn. PAL officers carved the trail through the woods near the Center which leads to a rock quarry; riding through thick brush, over rocks and sticks and small creek beds. Since airing on local news stations, donated bikes have rolled in, alleviating wait times for anxious riders.



PAL Kicks Butts

On March 19, Tri-County Mental Health Services and the Police Athletic League Center hosted a Kickball Tournament for Kick Butts Day in an effort to discourage youth from smoking and stay tobacco-free. Approximately 100 attendees were treated to free food and assorted giveaways, including footballs, soccer balls, hockey jerseys, beach towels and t-shirts. Educational displays were furnished by Youth with Vision, representing healthy and damaged lungs and what a smoker's mouth and teeth would look like. To simulate the labored breathing a smoker might experience, the youth were instructed to run the stairs and do jumping jacks before blowing through a straw to try and move a cotton ball across the table. Topping off the night was a kickball tournament involving the kids, including big kid "Coach" P.O. Antoney Perez.

Officers jump for health

Officers competed in a jump rope competition March 21 at the Police Athletic League Center in conjunction with the Wellness Committee. Each participant received \$10 cash with the top two finishers from each of the following categories winning Surge Cable Ropes. Winners for single turns in 1 minute were P.O. Antoney Perez with 173 and P.O. Matt Neal with 168; winners for double-unders in 1 minute were Neal with 117 and P.O. David Travaglione with 85; and for double-unders without a miss were Neal with 117 (made it a minute without a miss) and Travaglione with 100.



Upcoming Events

April 17
150th EOC Academy
Graduation

April 22
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting
(South Patrol Division)

April 24
Take your child to work
day-Open House

April 29 - May 2
Police Fleet Expo-West

May 20
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting
(Academy)

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The mission of the
Kansas City Missouri
Police Department
is to protect and serve
with honor and integrity.



Officially Speaking

Awards

Certificate of Commendation

Sergeant Steven Griswold
Reserve Officer Jeremy Dumit
Officer Luke Ewert
Officer Beau Johnson
Officer Daniel Quiles
Officer Jeffery Runyan

Distinguished Service Medal

Officer Zakary Glidewell
Officer Michael Holsworth
Officer Robert Martin

Retirements

Officer Raymond Thomas

Obituaries

Retired Sergeant Fred Honeywell
Retired Detective Chester Lucas

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